

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A compound represented by the formula:



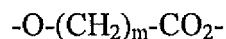
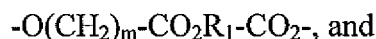
where

Z represents H or alkyl;

POLY and POLY' are poly(alkylene oxide) groups that can be the same or different and are represented by the formula $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CHRO})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CHR}-$ in which R is H or alkyl, and n ranges from about 10 to about 4000;

Q represents a functional group; and

W represents a hydrolytically unstable linkage selected from



where m ranges from 1 to 10, and R₁ is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2-$.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound of Claim 1, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of aldehydes, carboxylic acids, ~~active esters, active carbonates~~, carbonate esters, N-succinimidyl esters, sulfonate esters, amines, hydrazides, orthopyridyl disulfides, ~~[[and]]~~ thiols, isocyanates, alcohols, and epoxide.

3. (Original) A compound represented by the formula:



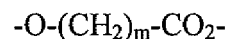
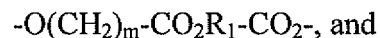
where

Z represents H or alkyl;

POLY and POLY' are poly(ethylene glycol) groups represented by the formula $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$ in which n ranges from about 10 to about 4000;

Q represents a functional group; and

W represents a hydrolytically unstable linkage selected from



where m ranges from 1 to 10, and R₁ is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2-$.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound of Claim 3, wherein Q is selected from the group consisting of aldehydes, carboxylic acids, ~~active esters, active carbonates~~, sulfonate esters, amines, hydrazides, orthopyridyl disulfides, ~~[[and]]~~ thiols, carbonate esters, N-succinimidyl esters, isocyanates, alcohols, and epoxide.